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In the Backrooms
By OLIVER PILAT
and JACK D. FOX

James Britt Donovan, 46, the Brooklyn lawyer who negotiated the swap last February of Soviet spy Rudolf Abel for U-2 Francis G. Powers, is expected to declare his candidacy for U. S. Senator next week.

He will be the first to pursue openly the Democratic-Liberal nomination against GOP Sen. Javits, although a half-dozen others have flirted privately with this hazardous prospect.


Donovan is a man with a take-charge personality who, as vice-chairman of the Board of Education, has already made an impact on the city school system.

Since he will reportedly take the plunge with a full-organized staff and set of campaign issues, Donovan may speed up the process of shaping a State Democratic ticket.

The idea of a mid-August caucus of prospective convention delegates to get an early start on the Democratic campaign has been pretty well abandoned for a variety of reasons.

Mayor Wagner's statement Thursday that a "cross-section of the party" might take a preliminary look at the ticket was interpreted in some quarters as it can also be interpreted as a bid for an informal conference which would include such persons as former Postmaster General James A. Farley, former Gov. Herbert H. Lehman and Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

With the help of a few influential upstaters such a group might conceivably launch a pre-convention draft for Chief Appellate Justice Botein for Governor and for Donovan or Queens District Attorney O'Connor for Senator, with the other nominations falling easily into place.



JAMES B. DONOVAN

a boost for such a caucus. But

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